

WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Wicklewood Village Hall on Monday 13th April, 2026

Present: John Seville (JS) Chair, Nick Kemp (NK) Vice Chair, Richard Goodings (RG), Danny Clarke (DC), Stephen Brown (SB), Hilary Matthews (HM)

In attendance: Gemma Creasey (GC) Parish Clerk, Margaret Dewsbury (MD) County Councillor

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th APRIL 2025. DC proposed accepting Minutes as correct, SB seconded, all agreed.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

At the annual Parish Council meeting May 2025, the positions were elected as follows – John Seville - Chairman, Nick Kemp - Vice Chairman and Playing Field & Play Area Inspector, Hilary Matthews - Internal Financial Control Officer, Stephen Brown - Speed Awareness Monitor and Danny Clarke – Allotment and Village Sign Inspector.

I would like to thank our Parish Clerk Gemma Creasey on behalf on behalf of the council for her excellent work during the last year.

Gemma tendered her resignation in January 2026 as she has now returned to full-time employment and will finish early May 2026. Gemma was appointed in May 2024 and on behalf of the Council I would like to wish her well for the future.

I would like to thank our Booking Clerk Sophie Scott on behalf of the council for her work during the last year.

The Council has continued through the year to maintain the Village Hall to a high standard.

Dream Team Cleaning continues to provide cleaning services at the Village Hall and the licensee of the Buck Public House at Morley continues to provide a licenced bar at the Village Hall when required.

The letting income from the Village Hall is the major income stream for the Council and continues to be well used.

At the annual review of the hall hire rates in May 2025 a small inflationary increase was approved from May 2025. Despite the increases in hire rates, they continue to be some of the most reasonable in the area.

The Playing Field and the children's play area continues to be enjoyed by parishioners of all ages.

The bid to the Mick George fund has been submitted for new play equipment and a we are awaiting a response. Should this not be successful, an application to the National Lottery Fund will be made.

The allotments continue to be enjoyed by parishioners, with all plots let.

The two Council owned agricultural fields continue to be let for commercial use under a farm business agreement.

The Council once again undertook the verge cutting in the parish, together with the areas of grass which are maintained within the village, with the County Council paying the Parish Council for taking responsibility for these activities.

The Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM 2) (flashing speed sign) continues to be moved around the pre-approved locations by Councillor Stephen Brown to record speeds and flash when vehicles are over 30mph. The readings generated are recorded on the village website.

A Community Speed Watch consisting of a group of parish volunteers continue to carry out speed watches at the police approved locations. On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank the Community Speed Watch volunteer for their work.

A Bus Shelter opposite the Cherry Tree in the direction of Hingham/Watton, identical to the shelter on the other side, was installed during October 2025. This was funded via the BSIP scheme with the Department of Transport providing 80% of the cost. The total cost of this was £7182. We received the sum of £5745.50 from the grant, with the Parish Council contributing £1436.50 from savings.

The Parish Council attended the South Norfolk Village Cluster Housing Allocations Plan Examination in January 2026 to make representations objecting to the proposed allocation of 52 dwellings on open agricultural land surrounding Wicklewood school. The Parish Council are pleased to report that the inspector has reported that the largest proposed allocation near the school, should be deleted from the plan. The planners will now need to produce an amended plan which will be subject to further public consultation.

I will let the Clerk go through the financial details of the year, but I am pleased to say through careful management the Parish Council finances are in good order and parish precept will not be increased for 2025/26.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work during the year, particularly those who have special responsibilities. Nick Kemp and Danny Clarke for carrying out their regular safety inspections, Hillary Matthews for Internal Finance Control Officer and Stephen Brown for the SAM2 speed sign.

I would also like to thank John Hipperson and Richard Goodings who have actively contributed to discussions and the working of the council during the year.

4. OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026:

GC went through the figures, see report accompanying these minutes. End of year balance £46,199.69.

5. REPORTS FROM:

5.1 County Councillor – MD had provided a written report, attached and circulated

5.2 District Councillor – RE had provided a written report, attached and circulated.

5.3 Wicklewood Support Fund (Poors Charity) – Michael Gamble reported the charity's income for the year was £225.79. Xmas grants totalling £225.00 had been given to 3 applicants. If anyone knows of any pensioners or families with school age children in need please get in contact with a trustee. Balance in COIF account is £7690.12. John Grey resigned as Trustee and Chairman from 1st January 2026, Rev Shirley Holt is now Chair and Tony Belham has been appointed a Trustee – there are 4 Trustees.

5.4 Old Village Hall Trust: Peter Woodrow reported that current trustees are Richard Goodings (chairman nominated until Sept 28) John Lowe (nominated until July 26.) Co-operative Trustees are Rev James Lynch (until June 26) and Carole Sidwell (until December 27.) Ex Officio Trustee Rev Shirley Holt (representing Priest in charge of High Oak Benefice.) During the year grants of £275 were made. Four Community Groups benefited: Wicklewood Brownies and Guides, High Oak Music Group and a grant towards the repair of the memorial cross marking the former burial ground. The Trustees enjoyed attending the unveiling event hosted by Dr Hilary Matthews.